

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 12:22 PM
To: 'Kathy Stokes'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket 20200226, Environmental Utilities Request for central Sewers

Good Afternoon, Kathy Stokes

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226-SU and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz

Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Fwd: Docket 20200226, Environmental Utilities Request for central Sewers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Date: January 3, 2021 at 6:17:23 PM EST
To: Duffy Smith <mcduff_33511@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Docket 20200226, Environmental Utilities Request for central Sewers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>

Date: January 2, 2021 at 7:28:45 PM EST

To: RecordsClerkCLERK@psc.state.fl.us

Subject: Docket 20200226, Environmental Utilities Request for central Sewers

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I have been property owners on Little Gasparilla Island since 1995. Our home is within the service area that Environmental Utilities LLC (EU) has applied for a certificate for, for central sewers. We are extremely concerned about the request by EU for bifurcation of the certificate and rate making proceedings as we have questions about the financial status of the applicant and his EU company. What experience has EU ever had with wastewater projects, any? This appears to be a start up company with limited resources. Will this be the first and only project (especially of this magnitude) for EU? How many employees does EU have? Is it just the applicants and their son? Our concern is of the applicant having the necessary experience, finances, and ability to properly construct, finish, manage and run this costly project.

All financial information is being kept confidential. Stakeholders need to be informed if the applicant has the necessary financial resources for construction and for contingencies. There have been no reliable costs estimates other than "Maybe,\$19,000 per unit for Cape Haze, probably \$20,000 per unit for the barrier islands and maybe grants will be available." A letter " of interest" for financing from a bank is not solid financial information. Stakeholders deserve complete transparency and AFTER the certificate is awarded is too late for that!

EU's attorneys asking for the waiver from paragraph 25-30.033(1)(p)&(q) of the Florida Administrative Code give three references as having similar situations to EU's case. These three applications were from the same project - The Villages, and that developer had shown much experience and expertise to complete the projects. Since the cost of EU 's project is not established, stakeholders can not see if the applicant's finances are adequate for securing a loan, for safely and correctly constructing, finishing, managing, and for the ongoing maintenance of the project.

Who besides EU will oversee the project? On Little Gasparilla Island we have no paved roads, only Sandy paths and lanes. There are no north / south plotted roads and all other property is private.

Another concern is there is no provision for payment over time and Charlotte County will have no involvement if the applicant fails to complete and operate the project. If financial information is not transparent, how can stakeholders agree or protest?

The applicant is the owner of LGI Water Utility and public records show in their annual report to Charlotte County that bad debt is listed. According to public records, property taxes on the water plant were delinquent at least four times. Certificates were bought on these.

Public records also show that the applicant was fined several thousand dollars by Charlotte County for illegally installing water pipes to homes on LGI. The applicant did not secure permits, he is the owner of the company, was not a licensed plumber, and then used the wrong pipes and other equipment which all had to be replaced. He was only charged with three cases but admitted to several homeowners and two Charlotte County Health Dept. Employees that he had

installed 100.

The above reasons along with a desire for honesty, integrity, and complete transparency in privately owned public utilities, is why I am requesting that EU's request for bifurcation and a temporary waiver be denied.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Stokes,

Kitkatstokes@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone